

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3180

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 3115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR YO AU

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS

REF: BELGRADE 6259 (DEC 16, 1974)

1. DURING DISCUSSION WITH FSFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY KOMATINA ON VARIOUS STATE VISITS, AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER YUGOSLAV-AUSTRIAN RAPPROCHEMENT IS IN PROGRESS. KOMATINA SAID THERE IS, IN A WAY. RETURN OF YUGOSLAV CULTURAL TREASURES IS BEING NEGOTIATED, FOR EXAMPLE, BUT THERE ARE STILL OTHER OUTSTANDING HISTORICAL PROBLEMS.

2. KOMATINA SAID YUGOSLAVIA IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS AUSTRIA'S FAILURE TO FULLY IMPLEMENT PROVISIONS OF STATE TREATY BUT THERE CAN BE NO DISCUSSION OF RESURGENCE OF NAZI ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES. IN ADDITION HE COMPLAINED THAT AUSTRIA HAD ADOPTED "PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE" AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA. HE SAID AN AUSTRIAN "STATESMAN" HAD CALLED IN YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR TO PASS ON REPORT THAT TITO HAD DIED (WE BELIEVE THIS IS REFERENCE TO INCIDENT REPORTED REFTEL, AND EXPLAINS HOW NEWS OF AUSTRIAN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING GOT BACK TO YUGOSLAVS). HE CONTINUED THAT AUSTRIAN PRESS REPORTS ALL MANNER OF SPECULATIONS ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA. AND HE CITED HOLDING OF USTASHI MEETING 3 KM FROM
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YUGOSLAV BORDER AS ANOTHER GROSS PROVOCATION. HE SAID EACH

TIME YUGOSLAVIA RASIES SUCH MATTERS WITH AUSTRIANS THEY
PROMISE AGAIN TO "TRY HARDER."

3. KOMATINA MADE NO BONES ABOUT LINKING PROBLEMS OF SLOVENE
MINORITIES IN AUSTRIA WITH ABOVE CITED FEATURES OF
GENERAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA. HE SAID THAT AUSTRIAN
SLOVENES WERE TRADITIONALLY FIRST TO FEEL PRESSURES OF ANTI-
YUGOSLAV AUSTRIAN POLICIES. THUS WHEN THEY COME UNDER
PRESSURE FROM HEIMATDEINST AND SIMILAR GROUPS IT MEANS THAT
ANTI-YUGOSLAV FORCES ARE GAINING STRENGTH AND YUGOSLAVS MUST
TAKE NOTE.

4. KOMATINA THEN TOLD STORY OF FARMER WHO SHOT A MOUSE TRYING
TO GET INTO HIS HOUSE. HE EXPLAINED TO CURIOUS NEIGHBORS THAT IT
WAS NECESSARY TO SHOOT MOUSE TO PRECLUDE LATER NEED TO FACE
CAT, DOG AND FINALLY AN ELEPHANT. LIKE ALL PARABLES, MEANING
DEPENDS ON EXEGESIS -- THAT YUGOSLAVS MUST NIP DANGEROUS
AUSTRIAN MANIFESTATIONS IN THE BUD OR THAT AUSTRIA IS THE MOUSE
AND COULD BY IMPLICATION BE FOLLOWED BY SOVIET ELEPHANT.

5. KOMATINA SPECULATED THAT YUGOSLAVIA'S PROBLEMS WITH
AUSTRIA MAY REST IN PART WITH KREISKY AND AUSTRIAN SOCIALISTS
WHO CLAIM TO BE LEGITIMATE AND SOLE HEIRS OF MARX. WHILE
LCY HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH OTHER SOCIALIST PARTIES IT HAS NEVER
BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH DIALOGUE WITH AUSTRIAN PARTY. KOMATINA
SUGGESTED THIS MAY BE DUE TO THEIR EXCESSIVE EMPHASIS ON
MARX'S CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS SLAVS AND COMMON AUSTRIAN
HISTORICAL PREJUDICE THAT YUGOSLAVS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR
COLLAPSE FOR HAPSBURG EMPIRE.
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